

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 2, 2003, has been carefully considered.

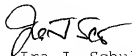
Objection has been raised to the title and the title has now been changed. However, the title does not include a "cover" which is an element of claim 18 as amended but not an element of the other allowable claims.

The allowability of claims 19, 24-28, 30 and 31 has been noted.

Claim 18 has now been amended to incorporate the recitations of allowable claim 19, while claim 24 has been placed in independent form, incorporating the recitations of claims 18, 22 and 23. Based on the above amendments, the independent claims are now claim 18 incorporating claim 19, claim 24 and claim 28, all cited as being allowable in the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS:

18. (Twice Amended) Brush holding apparatus for at least one carbon brush comprising a base plate having a ground wall and including at least one brush guide, a spring element constructed and arranged for urging a carbon brush having a longitudinal axis parallel to the ground wall, mounted in the at least one brush guide in a direction towards a commutator or slip ring, [and] a retaining element mounted to the base plate adjacent to the at least one brush guide and including means for retaining the carbon brush in a retracted position against a force exerted by the spring element, and a removable cover for the base plate,

wherein the retaining element is slidably supported by the base plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a carbon brush mounted in the brush guide, whereby the retaining element is movable between a first position in which the carbon brush may be retained by the retaining element, and a second position in which the carbon brush may be released by the retaining element, the removable cover including means causing the retaining element to become disengaged from the carbon brush when the cover is mounted on the base plate.

24. (Twice Amended) [Apparatus in accordance with claim 23,] Brush holding apparatus for at least one carbon brush

comprising a base plate having a ground wall and including at least one brush guide, a spring element constructed and arranged for urging a carbon brush having a longitudinal axis parallel to the ground wall, mounted in the at least one brush guide in a direction towards a commutator or slip ring, and a retaining element mounted to the base plate adjacent to the at least one brush guide and including means for retaining the carbon brush in a retracted position against a force exerted by the spring element,

wherein the retaining element is slidably supported by the base plate in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of a carbon brush mounted in the brush guide, whereby the retaining element is movable between a first position in which the carbon brush may be retained by the retaining element, and a second position in which the carbon brush may be released by the retaining element,

the retaining element comprising a pin or cylindrical extension on a side thereof that faces a carbon brush mounted in the brush holder, which, upon retraction of the carbon brush, becomes engaged in a recess in the carbon brush, in the manner of a pocket hole,

wherein upon engagement of the pin of the retaining element in the recess in the carbon brush, an adjustment force created by the spring element against the carbon brush causes the pin to become wedged in the recess,

and wherein the retaining element comprises a first, outer section that runs along a side wall extending from an outer edge of the ground wall or an intermediate wall of the base plate and surrounding it, with the first section crossing over into a center section that runs perpendicular to the first section, from which the extension extends, and from which, on an opposite side, a second section extends, which fits into the guide which extends outwardly from the base.